

# The National Republican.

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**THE NATIONAL REPUBLICAN**  
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From the Washington Correspondence of the San Francisco Daily Alta, California:

**Negro Suffrage in the Districts.**

Impatience is the besetting sin of all radical reformers. Instead of being satisfied with having turned our national progress in a right direction, they are eager to reach the goal before the starting-point has fairly been left. It may be said of them with but little exaggeration, that they desire and expect to enjoy the fruit of a tree before the seed from which it is to spring has sprouted. Although history shows that all great reforms have been of slow growth, especially reforms that have been attained in spite of that tough, long-lived old giant, prejudice, the lesson is little weight when opposed to the mad desire to witness immediate results to efforts in behalf of reform. In a recent letter I called attention to the fact that the problem demanding solution at the hands of Congress was no longer one of simple restoration, upon which action could be taken finally and irreversibly, and then passed over to the control of the parties most directly concerned—the Southern States. In its stead a task of reconstruction devolves upon Congress requiring not only tact, experience and judgment, but that rare faculty of adaptability to circumstances as they vary from time to time, which few statesmen possess, and which only uncommon bodies of men ever exhibit in full exercise.

The fresh task opens a new arena into which every radical who has a hobby prefers to run, displaying its prowess, and challenging admittance for its curves and demerits. Most prominent of such displays was the introduction, discussion and passage of the bill establishing negro suffrage in the District of Columbia—a bill about as much needed and likely to be as useful to the race affected by it, as an act providing that all American babies should walk before they had crept, would be to our national infantile population.

It is not necessary here to discuss the merits of the bill. I simply say its enactment was premature, and will defeat the objects aimed at in its passage. "For all things there is a time and a fitting season." In my mind next to doing a right thing at a wrong time, are those who so hastily and unwisely pressed this measure to its passage aware of its inevitable results? Can they not see that they are risking the success of a great national experiment? For if the thing work well in the District, that triumph will be of trifling weight. But if it work badly, how fatal and widespread may be the consequences!

I have spoken of the longevity and toughness of a prejudice. There is a striking instance of this in French history, in the case of the Cagots. Against these inhabitants of a French province a popular prejudice existed several hundred years ago, so strong that laws were passed defining their disabilities, and placing them in a position legally very like that which our negroes hold socially. There was no reason, moral, intellectual, or physical, for this disability. The race were prescribed simply because they were Cagots. There was nothing in their appearance or habits to indicate inferiority of race. Yet it took nearly two centuries of the most stringent legislation in France to do away with the abuses to which this "Accursed Race," as Mrs. Gaskell well called them, were subjected. And until a late period in the last century these social disabilities on the part of the Cagots were prevalent in certain districts.

Let us look the matter boldly in the face. Nine men out of ten will admit that they do "dislike a nigger," though perhaps seven out of ten are ashamed of the feeling. And it will not do to ignore or pooh-pooh this feeling, for it is a real sentiment, abhorrent though it may be to shun philanthropists.

Well, now, by prematurely promoting the colored man to the place we all desire him to fill, you only aggravate this sentiment and make it more intense. And presently, too, overwhelmed by his sudden elevation, (an elevation which would not have occurred had his elevation been timely instead of premature,) Sambo begins to "play such fantastic tricks before high Heaven" as will cause his trust friends to weep.

They may seem strange views; and truly, they are as frank as any ever put in print. But I am borne out by experience in what I say of the effect of a sudden transfer of the negro from thralldom to privilege. No man can go ashore from a steamer at Kingston, Jamaica, and spend half a day without having it forced on his credence, *nostra voluntas*. And I appeal to all my fellow-victims in the Fraser River epidemic to bear me out in the assertion that in Victoria, Vancouver's Island, a similar lesson was visible to the naked eye. As is the case in all such instances, the poor colored man has to bear the brunt of the evil consequences. It will be he, and not the ultra radicals, who will suffer from the postponement of this general emancipation consequent on the failure of such too-hastily-tried experiments as the District suffrage bill. Tom, Sambo, Dinah and Chloe, on the banks of the Suwanee, laboriously striving to attain the rudiments of that education by which alone they can become truly worthy of freedom, will mayhap find the fruits of their labor denied them because their too-hastily-be-privileged race-fellows on the banks of the Potomac have failed in their suddenly-imposed trial. And the same drawback will operate on the rising generation.

It is possible that these forebodings may not be realized. It is possible that the victory just won in Congress, over which the radicals are shouting and hand-shaking all over the land, may not prove "more disastrous than a defeat."

This, too, is but another instance how Southern spirit defeats itself. No such bill would have been passed at this session but for the hostile feeling aroused by the pragmatical, senseless conduct of the Southern States in regard to the constitutional amendment.

**THE WASHINGTON HOMOEOPATHIC DISPENSARY.**

This charitable institution so much needed in the city will open on MONDAY, October 29, on G street, between Twelfth and Thirteenth.

**GUARDIANS:**  
HENRY D. COOKE, ESQ.,  
CHARLES KNAP, ESQ.,  
JOSEPH H. BRADLEY, ESQ.,  
W. E. GORDON, ESQ.,  
GEORGE N. BAKER, ESQ.,  
HON. MONTGOMERY BLAIR.

JOHN G. CLARKE, Treasurer.

T. S. VERDI, M. D., Secretary.

At this worthy institution the poor people of our city will receive medical attendance and medicines free of charge.

**The Dispensary being supported by free contributions, all those who disposed towards the poor may contribute to its support. Dr. T. S. Verdi, 206 G street, between Fourteenth and Fifteenth.**

**The Dispensary will be opened from 2 to 4 p. m., daily, Sundays excepted.**

Drs. T. S. Verdi, of Washington, and C. H. Verdi, of Georgetown, and other physicians willing to assist in the good work, will be in attendance.

T. S. VERDI, M. D., Secretary.

**PATENT OFFICE NOTICES.**

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR.**

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE,

Washington, Oct. 24, 1866.

On the petition of James F. Tamm, of Tamm's Tavern, Virginia, praying for the extension of a patent granted to him the 21st day of February, 1865, for an improvement in Design for a Sewing-machine, the Patent Office, after due examination, has issued a patent for the same, free of cost, for a term of twenty years, which takes place on the 21st day of February, 1887.

It is ordered that the said petition be heard at the Patent Office on MONDAY, the 10th day of February next, at 12 o'clock m.; and all persons are notified to appear and show cause, if any they have, why said petition ought not to be granted.

Persons opposing the extension are required to file, in writing, at least twenty days before the day of hearing, their testimony, signed by one or more persons, and each witness must be taken and transcribed in accordance with the rules of the office, which will be furnished on application.

Editors of the above papers, called upon as testimony, may be heard in the office twenty days before the day of hearing—the arguments, if any, within ten days after the day of hearing.

Ordered also, that this notice be published in the *Advertiser*, and the *Intelligencer*, Washington, D. C., and in the *Times*, Providence, R. I., once a week for three successive weeks; the first of said publications to be at least sixty days previous to the day of hearing.

T. C. THRAKER,  
Commissioner of Patents.

F. M.—Editors of the above papers will please copy, and send their bills to the Patent Office with a paper containing this notice.

date—when

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR.**

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE,

Washington, Oct. 24, 1866.

On the petition of William Oldham, of Springfield, Vermont, for an improvement in a process for the preparation of fine leather, the Patent Office, after due examination, has issued a patent to him the 11th day of January, 1865, and regranted to him the 11th day of February, 1866, for an improvement in Design for a Sewing-machine, the Patent Office, after due examination, has issued a patent for the same, free of cost, for a term of twenty years, which takes place on the 11th day of February, 1887.

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